

Serial No. 09/536,345

3

Group 3677

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A bed frame comprising horizontal side rails having ends adapted to form a support for a box spring and a mattress, horizontal cross members affixed at junction points to said horizontal side rails intermediate said ends, said bed frame having leg assemblies extending vertically downwardly from said junction points of said horizontal cross members and said horizontal side rails, protective shields comprising molded plastic housings affixed to said bed frame and adapted to enclose the ends of said horizontal side rails and said junction points of said horizontal side rails and said horizontal cross members to cover sharp ends at said locations.

2. (original) A bed frame as defined in claim 1 wherein said protective shields comprise at least first and second housings joined together by a living hinge, at least two of said first and second housings having free ends, said protective shield having means to affix said free ends together to affix said protective shields to said bed frame.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A bed frame for supporting a box spring and mattress, said bed frame having sharp edges at at least one location, said at least one location comprising horizontal side rails having ends, horizontal cross members affixed at junction points to said horizontal side rails intermediate said ends, leg assemblies extending vertically downwardly from said junction points of said horizontal cross members and horizontal said side rails, and brackets adapted to affix a headboard to said bed frame, protective shields comprising at least first and second housings having formed peripheral surfaces that are joined together by means of a snap fit, said

Serial No. 09/536,345

4

Group 3677

protective shields affixed to said at least one location of said bed frame to enclose and contain the sharp edges at said at least one location.

5. (currently amended) A bed frame for supporting a box spring and mattress, said bed frame having sharp edges at at least one location comprising horizontal side rails having ends, horizontal cross members affixed at junction points to said horizontal side rails intermediate said ends, vertical leg assemblies extending downwardly from said junction points of said horizontal cross members and said horizontal side rails, and brackets adapted to affix a headboard to said bed frame, protective shields comprising at least first and second housings joined together and having free ends, wherein one of said free ends of one of said at least first and second housings has a tab extending therefrom and said other free end of said other housing has an aperture adapted to receive said tab to affix said free ends together, said protective shields adapted to be affixed to said bed frame at said at least one location to enclose the sharp edges at said at least one said location.

6. (currently amended) A protective shield to enclose and contain sharp edges of a bed frame member adapted to support a box spring and a mattress, said protective shield comprising first and second molded plastic housings, each of said first and second molded plastic housings being molded in a predetermined configuration and having stiffening members to maintain the first and second molded plastic housings in said predetermined configurations, said first and second housings being joined together and having free ends, said first and second housings having a securing means at said free ends thereof, said housings adapted to be affixed about said sharp edges of a bed frame to enclose and contain the sharp edges.

7. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 31 wherein said hinge is a living hinge.

Serial N . 09/536,345

5

Group 3677

8. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 6 wherein said shield is adapted to be affixed to a bed frame member when said free ends are affixed together.

9. (currently amended) A protective shield as defined in claim 8 wherein a said shield is adapted to be affixed to a leg assembly.

10. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 8 wherein said shield is adapted to be affixed to at least one side rail.

11. (currently amended) A protective shield to enclose and contain a sharp edge or corner at at least one location about a bed frame adapted to support a box spring and mattress, said bed frame comprising horizontal side rails having ends, horizontal cross members joined to said horizontal side rails and having legs extending vertically downwardly from the junction of said horizontal cross members and said horizontal side rails, and brackets adapted to affix a headboard to said bed frame, said protective shield comprising first and second molded plastic housings, said first and second housings joined together and having free ends, said first and second housings having an interlocking securing means at said free ends thereof, said housings adapted to be affixed about said at least one location of said bed frame member to enclose and contain the sharp edges or corners by joining the interlocking securing means at said free ends of said first and second housings.

12. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 32 wherein said hinge is a living hinge.

13. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 11 wherein said housings are adapted to be affixed about a location enclosing and containing legs of a bed frame member.

Serial No. 09/536,345

6

Group 3677

14. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 11 wherein said housings are adapted to be affixed about a location enclosing and containing junctions of a cross member and a side rail of a bed frame.

15. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 11 wherein said housings are adapted to be affixed about a location enclosing side rails of a bed frame.

16. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 11 wherein said housings are adapted to be affixed about a location enclosing ends of side rails, junctions of cross members and side rails, legs, brackets for affixing a headboard and side rails of a bed frame.

17. (currently amended) A method of protecting locations of a bed frame having sharp edges and adapted to support a box spring and mattress, said method comprising:

providing a pair of molded plastic housings having a predetermined thickness and flexibility, said molded plastic housings being joined together at an area of narrower thickness to establish a junction of greater flexibility by a living hinge and having free ends,

positioning the housings so as to enclose the sharp edges of the bed frame within the molded plastic housings,

closing the molded plastic housings together to enclose and contain the sharp edges, and

attaching the free ends together to retain the molded plastic housings to the bed frame.

Serial N . 09/536,345

7

Group 3677

18. (currently amended) In a bed frame construction having horizontal side rails and horizontal cross members affixed to said horizontal side rails and positioned between said horizontal side rails, and leg assemblies located adjacent said junctures of said horizontal side rails and said horizontal cross members, the improvement comprising a protective shield comprising a plurality of molded plastic housings, said housings being joined together and having free ends including interlocking means to affix said free ends together, said housings being affixed to said bed frame to enclose said ends of said horizontal side rails, said junctures of said horizontal side rails and said horizontal cross members by affixing said free ends together by said interlocking means.

19. (previously presented) In a bed frame construction as defined in claim 18 wherein the improvement further comprises said molded plastic housings adapted to be joined together to enclose substantially the entire length of said side rails.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) In a bed frame construction as defined in claim 33 wherein the improvement further comprises said hinge is a living hinge.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) In a bed frame construction as defined in claim 18 wherein the improvement comprises said interlocking means having interlocking peripheral edges adapted to be snapped together to join said free ends of said housings together.

24. (currently amended) A protective mounted shield as defined in claim 11 wherein for a bed frame, said shield having a pair of housings adapted to be joined

Serial No. 09/536,345

8

Group 3677

~~together to enclose a structural member of a bed frame having sharp edges to provide protection to a user of a bed frame, said shield having has indicia permanently placed on said shield.~~

25. (currently amended) ~~A bed frame as defined in claim 1 wherein having a plurality of structural members, at least one of said structural members having sharp edges and having a protective shield comprising a pair of housings affixed together to enclose the sharp edges of said at least one structural member to provide protection to a user of the bed frame, said protective shield having at least one of said molded housings of said protective shields has indicia permanently placed thereon indicating the source of the bed frame.~~

26. (currently amended) ~~A protective shield to enclose and contain a sharp edge or corner of a structural or ornamental member, said protective shield comprising first and second molded plastic housings, each of said first and second molded plastic housings being molded in a predetermined configuration and having stiffening members to maintain the first and second molded plastic housings in said predetermined configurations, said first and second housings joined together and having free ends, said first and second housings having an interlocking securing means at said free ends thereof, said housings adapted to be affixed about said sharp edge or corner of a structural or ornamental member to enclose and contain a sharp edge or corner by joining the interlocking securing means at said free ends of said first and second housings.~~

27. (previously presented) ~~A protective shield as defined in claim 26 wherein said first and second housings are joined together by means of a hinge.~~

28. (previously presented) ~~A protective shield as defined in claim 27 wherein said hinge is a living hinge.~~

Serial No. 09/536,345

9

Group 3677

29. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 26 wherein said interlocking securing means comprises a tab on one of said first and second housings and an aperture on the other of said first and second housings and said tab interlocks into said aperture to join said free ends of said first and second housings together.

30. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 26 wherein said interlocking securing means comprises interlocking edges on said free ends of said first and second housings adapted to be snapped together to join said free ends of said first and second housings together.

31. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 6 wherein said first and second housings are joined together by means of a hinge.

32. (previously presented) A protective shield as defined in claim 11 wherein said first and second housings are joined together by means of a hinge.

33. (previously presented) In a bed frame assembly as defined in claim 18 wherein the improvement comprises said first and second housings being joined together by means of a hinge.

---